

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Comments on Stalin's Death and Changes Following It	DATE DISTR.	23 June 1954
	25X1A	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	

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SOURCE:

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1.
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believes that the popular reaction to Stalin's death was in general favorable, insofar as the people expected the discontinuation of the dictatorial regime in the USSR, of which Stalin was the very incarnation, and its replacement by a parliamentary system of administration. The changes following Stalin's death, such as price reductions, the amnesty, and non-appearance of the appeal for State Loan subscriptions (normally due at the beginning of May), were also accepted as an indication that Malenkov's regime was going to do something to improve conditions in the USSR.

2. Following the March 1953 amnesty in the USSR, several MVD circulars arrived instructing border troop personnel of the Turkmenian Border District to organize the supervision of amnestied persons, convicted originally for unauthorized border crossings, from the moment they returned to their places of residence. Quite a number of these persons were supposed to return to Takhta-Bazar Rayon, and there was a possibility that they would try again to cross the USSR border to Afghanistan. However, none of the amnestied persons had arrived in the area

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3. Source is not knowledgeable on the subject of the post-Stalin jurisdiction of the MVD. He read the decree about the merger of the MVD and the MGB in the newspapers, but this was about all he knew. the above reorganization did not bring about any changes; nor were there any directives or instructions received introducing any innovations into the established routine

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